



NATIONAL  
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# WEATHER & CROPS

**Week Ending: October 7, 2012**

**Number: 31**

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## WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR OCTOBER 7, 2012

Producers across the Commonwealth continued with their harvest of tobacco, corn and early season beans, although a resurgence of rain in some areas delayed field work until late in the week. Days suitable for field work were 4.9. Along with harvest, field preparation and the planting of small grains remained a widespread activity. Fields where corn has been harvested are now being cleared and prepared for cover crops and winter crops. Tobacco producers continued with their harvest as well as taking cured and baled tobacco to the buying stations. Livestock are doing well, and although some pastures are starting to become thin, there is still plenty of grass available. Furthermore, hay fields remain in outstanding condition for stockpiling winter forage.

### TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
October 7, 2012	1	14	74	11
September 30, 2012	2	23	74	1
September 23, 2012	2	19	74	5
September 16, 2012	4	28	64	4
September 9, 2012	2	18	73	7

### SUBSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
October 7, 2012	2	24	72	2
September 30, 2012	3	27	69	1
September 23, 2012	4	23	70	3
September 16, 2012	6	32	60	2
September 9, 2012	4	26	63	7

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**Virginia Cooperative Extension  
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**Virginia State University**



VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	1	8	24	58	9
Livestock	1	5	20	55	19
Hay, Other	2	15	24	46	13
Hay, Alfalfa	2	5	15	51	27
Soybeans	0	3	19	59	19
Peanuts	0	0	16	73	11
Cotton	0	0	12	78	10

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Dent	99	97	98	100
Corn Mature	97	94	92	96
Corn Harvested	86	79	73	67
Corn Silage Harvested	93	90	92	95
Soybeans Dropping Leaves	51	33	53	63
Soybeans Harvested	3	2	4	6
Winter Wheat Seeded	17	9	31	18
Winter Wheat Emerged	4	0	0	1
Barley Seeded	52	32	49	42
Tobacco, Flue Harvested	87	82	79	79
Tobacco, Burley Harvested	99	88	98	94
Peanuts Dug	35	20	22	31
Peanuts Combined	11	2	10	18
Cotton Bolls Opening	95	85	92	91
Cotton Harvested	3	0	17	18
Apples, Fall Harvested	95	85	53	68
Apples, Winter Harvested	64	54	18	38

**VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 7, 2012**

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base 50) 1/		Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Mar. 1 to Oct. 6 normal	Mar. 1 to Oct. 6 normal	Last Week	Since Sep. 1	Sep. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	75	54	82	47	64	3	3972	3616	0.46	2.81	-1.79	25.35	-8.90
Norfolk	81	64	88	58	73	7	4647	4039	0.21	1.48	-3.29	34.15	-2.96
Richmond	80	61	85	53	71	7	4499	3919	0.21	4.29	-0.42	29.67	-5.23
Roanoke	73	55	80	46	64	2	4177	NA	0.67	4.27	-0.22	29.10	-4.73
Wash/Dulles	76	53	81	45	64	3	4073	NA	2.38	5.08	0.59	25.13	-7.50

\* Normal based on 1971-2000 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>. Source: USDA, NASS, Virginia Field Office.

## REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

### CENTRAL

#### **HANOVER (Jim Tate)**

The first week of October was a beautiful week and lots of field work was done. Fields are turning green again with the emergence of fall planted crops. Late beans are still chugging along while early beans are being harvested. I have not yet gotten any yield reports from producers. A paucity of rain still exists. The weather guys tell me it has been raining for three days and the metropolitan populace is crying misery....but I have less than a tenth of an inch in my rain gauge and the seeps and springs are still not running and most are still bone dry. I rode my horse thru a normally swampy area over the weekend and he didn't get his toes wet.

#### **(Southern continued)**

Some have finished tobacco but there is still a fair amount standing. Our one vineyard has finished grape harvest and is preparing for next year. The calls about soil samples are picking up. Temperatures have dropped now for a few days and some rain has moved in, but we could use some more. Some pastures are thin but all in all, there is still grass for the livestock. Hay is being moved and calves are hitting the ground. Some reports of problems with lambs most likely due to parasites.

### EASTERN

#### **ESSEX (Ketih Balderson)**

Farmers continued planting barley. Field preparation for wheat planting continued, and some farmers started planting wheat. Full-season soybean harvest is just underway.

#### **KING WILLIAM (Laura Maxey)**

It has rained a significant amount in central King William this week. The temperature dropped significantly Sunday and has stayed cooler since.

### SOUTHEASTERN

#### **BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L. Gregg)**

Flue Cured Tobacco is being harvest in full. Most producers are beginning the last third to fourth harvest. Many of them are taking cured and baled tobacco to the buying stations. Many are also getting the fields ready for planting small grain. Soybeans are being monitored for leaf drop. The rains and cooler weather over the weekend spurred tree leaves into color.

#### **VIRGINIA BEACH (Roy D. Flanagan III)**

Corn harvest is running right into soybean harvest. Strawberry planting has been completed and small grain will start going in the ground in the next week or so.

### SOUTHERN

#### **LUNENBURG (Lindy Tucker)**

The beans are turning pretty significantly across the county. The corn has been harvested and open fields are being cleaned up and prepared for cover crops and winter crops.

### WESTERN

#### **ROCKBRIDGE (Tom Stanley)**

Rain early in the week slowed field work but harvest and planting activity resumed by Thursday. Pasture and hay fields remain in excellent shape with good conditions for stockpiling winter forage.